

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 234571 TOSEC 270533

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ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:ALATHERTON, JR./HLK

APPROVED BY P - PHILIP HABIB

S/S - MR. BRIDGES

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TO USDEL SECRETARY AIRCRAFT IMMEDIATE

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S E C R E T STATE 234571 TOSEC 270533

NODIS

FOR SECRETARY FROM HABIB

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SA, US, IS

SUBJECT: ISRAELI POSITION ON SAUDI ARMS SALES

REF: TOSEC 270498

1. SINCE SENDING YOU REFTEL, DINITZ HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH US TO SAY THE FOLLOWING: MA'ARIV TODAY HAS GIVEN BIG PLAY TO STORY BASED ON MY TESTIMONY YESTERDAY THAT ISRAEL HAD NOT OBJECTED TO PROPOSED SAUDI ARMS SALES. RABIN HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH DINITZ FOR CLARIFICATION, SAYING THAT HE WILL HAVE TO ANSWER QUERIES ON THIS IN THE KNESSET. THEREFORE, HE HAS ASKED THAT WE CLARIFY MATTER AT TODAY'S PRESS BRIEFING, IN ADDITION TO CORRECTING RECORD OF CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY, IN ORDER TO DEFUSE THIS ISSUE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. WE HAVE TRIED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO GET THROUGH TO YOUR OFFICE ON THE PHONE THIS MORNING TO SEE IF YOU HAVE HAD A CHANCE TO FOCUS ON REFTEL. IN ATHERTON'S AND MY

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JUDGMENT, THE BEST WAY TO AVOID AN UNNECESSARY FLAP OVER

THIS IS TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE.
PRESS SPOKESMAN HAS ALREADY RECEIVED A NUMBER OF INQUIRIES,
AND I HAVE THEREFORE AUTHORIZED HIM TO SAY THE FOLLOWING
AT TODAY'S PRESS BRIEFING: QUOTE: MR. HABIB HAS ASKED ME

TO SAY HE FINDS HE WAS MISINFORMED. THE ISRAELIS HAVE
INDICATED THEIR OBJECTIONS TO THIS SALE. UNQUOTE. ROBINSON

SECRET

NNN

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